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**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

# Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The Secretary-General submits the present report in response to General Assembly resolution 69/173, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit to the Assembly at its seventieth session a substantive report on the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights based on those views, including recommendations on ways to address the subject. The report summarizes the views received from the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cuba, Peru, Serbia and Tunisia, as well as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The report identifies common concerns and topics of interest. It concludes by making recommendations on how to address the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of human rights.

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# I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 69/173, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/69/99) and requested the Secretary-General to continue to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit to the Assembly at its seventieth session a substantive report on the subject based on those views, including recommendations on ways to address the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights.

2. Pursuant to that request, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sent a request on 19 March 2015 to Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system for their views on the issue. As of 30 June 2015, OHCHR had received responses from the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cuba, Peru, Serbia and Tunisia, as well as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

3. The replies are summarized below* followed by conclusions and recommendations to address the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights.

# II. Summary of replies received

## A. Member States

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

4. The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that the process of globalization has been most pronounced in the area of trade and economy, which is confirmed by the existence of a number of global organizations in that field. However, globalization is not only an economic process, but also has social, political, cultural and legal dimensions with an impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights. Bosnia and Herzegovina believes that the equality of rights of countries in the process of globalization has been guaranteed only declaratively, being limited to calls for respect of the basic principles which underpin human rights. Nevertheless, when it comes to the achievable rights, the reality remains that developing countries depend on the will of certain "key countries" which "lead" globalization and liberalization of world trade.

5. Bosnia and Herzegovina is involved in the process of globalization of trade and, accordingly, it is committed to building a liberal trade regime based on the principles of transparency and respect for an open, predictable, non-discriminatory, rules-based international trading system. To that end, it has concluded a number of multilateral, regional and bilateral trade agreements and joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). Its strategy is aimed at promoting the full enjoyment of human rights for all people, primarily the right to work, and is based on the country's commitment to political, economic and institutional stability, including enhanced participation by civil society and administration reform.

* The texts of the original submissions are on file with the Secretariat and are available for consultation.

6. Bosnia and Herzegovina reaffirmed the international commitments expressed in General Assembly resolution 69/173 relating to eliminating hunger and securing food for all and promoting equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth. Bosnia and Herzegovina intends to become actively involved in the Committee on World Food Security within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The country takes an active part in the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources and Agriculture, which deals inter alia with the issue of equitable access to and benefits sharing of genetic resources for food and agriculture in the light of globalization. Additionally, Bosnia and Herzegovina announced that it will adopt the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The Government stated that it has prepared an action plan for the development of strategies for safe food supply in a context of globalization.

**Cuba**

7. The Government of Cuba reaffirmed that the subject of globalization should be addressed in the General Assembly, as it is the most universal and representative forum. It emphasized the need to adopt global measures that address the needs of developing countries, with the participation of all peoples under the principle of shared responsibility, taking into account the interdependence generated by globalization and its impact on various facets of life. The international agenda must prioritize themes such as reducing the unequal distribution of the benefits of globalization and narrowing the gap between the rich and poor, among and within countries.

8. Cuba emphasized the importance of placing development at the centre of the international economic agenda. It called for the replacement of current financial institutions and the establishment of a democratic, transparent and equitable international system. It provided concrete suggestions including a development tax, the cancellation of foreign debt, an increase in development assistance which should not be conditional or subordinate to the economic and political interests of donors, and a return to the preferential trade agreements with special and differential treatment. Cuba lamented that although international instruments have been made to make multilateral trade and monetary and finance systems more equitable, transparent, democratic and based on clear and non-discriminatory rules, little progress has been achieved to see these commitments materialize. It also called for reforms to make the United Nations system more democratic and effective.

9. Cuba listed the global economic crisis and speculative competition, the expanding business of warfare, unsustainable patterns of energy production and consumption, systemic damage to the environment and the food crisis as some of the effects of neoliberal globalization. Other effects listed include the imposition of one model of democracy, increasing threats of the use of military force, limitations on the transfer of technology from developed to developing countries, intellectual property systems aimed at defending monopolies and interests of developed countries as well as restrictions on migration.

10. In Cuba's opinion, globalization has resulted in a decrease in the role of the State and its economic capacity to realize the right to development and to guarantee basic public services such as education, health, and social security. This has resulted

in greater inequality and a lack of access to economic, social, and cultural rights for millions of people. In the view of Cuba, globalization should have been a positive force for all people and countries; instead, it has become a way in which the power centres impose their visions and perpetuate the dependency of developing countries.

**Peru**

11. Peru reported that General Assembly resolution 69/173 is in line with the Political Constitution of Peru since the latter places the defence of the human being and the respect of his or her dignity as the supreme objective of society and the State. Peru stated that such principles and the main universal human rights instruments invoked by the resolution also inspire and are in harmony with its National Plan for Human Rights 2014-2016.

12. According to Peru, the protection of economic freedom and the promotion of private investment have allowed the country to become integrated in the process of globalization and achieve economic growth, consolidating the Peruvian economy in the region. The country has allocated resources to the implementation of public policies for the promotion of employment, education, health care, security, public services and infrastructure in order to guarantee the fundamental rights of the population. The National Plan for Human Rights is part of that strategy, with the objective of increasing the effective enjoyment and exercise of human rights through the promotion of a culture of respect for human dignity at all levels of society and the incorporation of a rights perspective in all public policies.

13. The Government of Peru highlighted the urgent need to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system to strengthen and broaden the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting. Peru has expressed a favourable opinion of the resolution which, in its view, drives States to act in response to the diverse effects of globalization with a development-oriented approach and in a context in which human rights are fully guaranteed. The Government of Peru has recommended that resolution 69/173 be used as a normative base and justification for future public policies and related instruments in which the Peruvian State and its judicial sector participate.

**Serbia**

14. The Government of Serbia stated that, as a country in transition, it tends to keep the impact of globalization, both on the economic status of the population and on the exercise of human rights, within a framework of sustainability. Serbia highlighted its strategy for development and promotion of corporate social responsibility. The strategy addresses the private sector's compliance with statutory obligations in areas such as health and safety, labour rights, consumer rights and environmental and industrial standards. It also includes reduction or elimination of negative effects of business activities on society and risk management and increasing positive effects of business activities and creating value through innovation, investment and partnerships.

15. Serbia adopted a strategy for prevention of and protection from discrimination after a broad participative process. This is considered to be the first strategic document dedicated to the fight against discrimination in the country, and is intended to contribute to the mitigation of the impact of globalization on the exercise of human rights. The strategy and its action plan concentrate on population

groups which may be vulnerable in the context of the negative aspects of globalization, owing primarily to poverty.

16. Serbia reported on other efforts carried out with the aim of promoting development and reducing the negative impact of globalization on the exercise of human rights. In this context, it cited the second national report on social inclusion and poverty reduction, the employment and social reform programme, the survey on incomes and living conditions, the monitoring framework for inclusive education in Serbia, the report on implementation of strategies for the advancement of Roma, the revision of the indicators on the Millennium Development Goals, and the projected index for gender equality and a council for the monitoring the implementation of recommendations of United Nations mechanisms for human rights.

**Tunisia**

17. The Government of Tunisia noted that there is a complex relationship between globalization and its effects on the full enjoyment of all human rights, with political, economic, social and cultural repercussions. It was of the opinion that globalization has two aspects: a realistic or materialistic aspect resulting from the huge scientific and technological evolution; and a moral aspect, which results from the expansionist competitive mode of production imposed by the market economy. The latter raises many concerns, especially in developing countries; since it allows developed countries to set their own unfair rules on trade, impose an overrated protection of intellectual property, and make information and technology transfer more expensive for developing countries.

18. Tunisia listed many of the benefits of globalization, including the development of agriculture, industry, production facilities, tourism, improved means of transportation, united financial and monetary policies, and expanded investment and economic integration. These advances have reshaped the world through production, marketing, funding, increasing work opportunities and improvement of technical and human efficiency. Tunisia warned, however, of the negative effects of globalization on the environment; and stressed the role of institutions in protecting the environment. The potential favourable effects of the mobility of goods and people across borders is an opportunity, if handled properly by Governments.

19. Tunisia stated that civil and political rights have been strengthened considerably in the era of globalization. The development of communication technologies and the information revolution have resulted in increased communications among peoples and made it more difficult to hide human rights violations. They have facilitated the monitoring of human rights violations and the adoption of targeted sanctions. Tunisia welcomed the spread of democratic principles, increased openness in trade, cultural and economic exchanges, and growth in the number of human rights organizations as a result of globalization.

20. In the opinion of Tunisia, economic and social rights did not get the same level of attention as civil and political rights, mainly as a result of the dominance of markets in globalization, and the devotion to increasing profits without considering its impact on human rights. The accumulation of human capabilities for society has been relegated through prioritization of the accumulation of capital. Machinery designed to save time and labour in economic and industrial activities has often resulted in an increase in poverty and unemployment rates. The international community should focus on the adoption of procedures and monitoring mechanisms

to limit the economic and financial domination of one group of countries over another.

21. It is in the area of cultural rights where globalization poses the greatest risks. The values rooted in the conscience of a people constitute their vision and view of the world. Individuals have the right to enjoy their own culture, language and religion, namely, having their own cultural specificity; and peoples have a right to their cultural identity. Tunisia believed that countries face an enormous disparity in their capacities to reach global influence in the context of globalization, which may in turn, have an adverse effect on these rights. Tunisia exemplified this point, by focusing on the media, where the majority of countries are for the most part recipients of information and perspectives emanating from a few.

## B. United Nations organizations

### United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

22. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) stated that the overall picture with respect to gender equality and the economy over the past two decades is one of limited progress. Financial globalization has brought with it the threat of destabilizing financial flows and periodic economic crises that can result in increased inequalities and vulnerability, with particular detrimental effects on poorer women. The globalization of trade and capital flows has also seen a concomitant rise in human mobility and labour migration in a context where many migrants, including migrant women, are irregular and do not enjoy the full protections of native workers. UN-Women is of the view that, while globalization has facilitated the increased movement of financing across borders, this financing often does not meet the needs of women and girls.

23. UN-Women stated that transformative economic and social policy agendas and a broad range of participatory gender-responsive social, economic and environmental policies are required in order to achieve gender equality and women's economic empowerment. With regard to the business community, UN-Women indicated that there is a growing demand for private actors to be held accountable for the impact of their actions on women's and girls' human rights, both within their borders and extraterritorially. Instruments such as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Women's Empowerment Principles provide a valuable shared framework and reference point. UN-Women also called attention to the fact that women's unequal access to land, water and other resources and productive assets, which are compounded by limited mobility and decision-making power in many contexts, also mean that they are disproportionally affected by climate change.

24. UN-Women noted that women and girls represent the majority of detected victims of human trafficking. Traffickers are taking advantage of transparent borders, broadband communication, and political and economic upheaval and mass migrations of people to exploit people in vulnerable situations. The solutions identified include, among others, addressing the structural causes of trafficking and all forms of violence through policies aimed at enhancing women's empowerment and non-discrimination, employment opportunities and labour market regulation and gender-sensitive labour migration.

25. UN-Women reported that there is a growing recognition of the potential of information and communications technology as tools for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women accessing and using information and communications technology, although a "gender divide" has also been identified. Such divide is evidenced in discriminatory, violent and degrading situations such as the persistent objectified representations of women in the media, gaming and pornography, and the emerging forms of violence such as cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking, sex and bride trafficking, sexual harassment and violence perpetrated by means of information and communications technology. Development of national and global regulatory and voluntary mechanisms are required in order to make use of the potential of information and communications technology for the advancement of gender equality; and to address stereotypes and prevent discrimination through information and communications technology.

**World Meteorological Organization**

26. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) referred to its work on the interaction of gender with weather and climate services, an important area of focus in addressing the challenges of sustainable development in the twenty-first century. WMO stated that numerous sectors of society are weather- and climate-sensitive, including disaster risk reduction, public health, water resources management and agriculture and food security. In these sectors, many of which are affected by ongoing globalization, communities require reliable weather and climate information. To be effective, weather and climate information services must meet the needs of all: women as well as men. Women and men should be able to make equally informed decisions with respect to the four priority areas of the Global Framework for Climate Services: food security, disaster risk reduction, water resources management and public health. To support these efforts the WMO has developed a policy on gender equality and empowerment of women.

# III. Conclusions and recommendations

## A. Conclusions

27. **The above responses reaffirmed the view that globalization is an increasingly complex and multidimensional process that affects countries differently and accelerates their exposure to external developments. It was suggested that although globalization leads to great opportunities for development and has positive effects in certain areas, its benefits are being unevenly shared and its costs unevenly distributed, with adverse effects on the full enjoyment of human rights. Some respondent States described strategies adopted at the national level to mitigate these adverse effects, including national plans for the protection of human rights and policies aimed at promoting corporate social responsibility. However, it was noted that the dominant role of markets vis-à-vis States makes it impossible for any State to address these challenges in isolation.**

28. **Concerns were raised on a range of specific issues, including perceived imbalances of power and lack of transparency and fairness in the international trade and financial systems; the situation of migrant workers, victims of**

trafficking and displaced persons; unsustainable patterns of energy production and consumption and the adverse effects on the environment; inequalities in access to food, land, water and basic services; threats to cultural identity; and, overall, the widening gap between the rich and the poor, both within and among countries. Discrimination and deeper inequalities of certain groups in situations of vulnerability — particularly women, minorities and migrants, have been highlighted.

29. While it was acknowledged that globalization has facilitated the increased movement of financing across borders, including through donor aid, foreign direct investment, and free trade, this increase has not correlated with enhanced equality among peoples. Good governance at all levels is widely regarded as a prerequisite to ensure that the benefits of globalization are reaped by all humanity. The call for participatory reform of international monetary and financial architecture and multilateral governance mechanisms remains a priority for respondent States.

30. Respondent States expressed concern that unfair trade rules, financial speculation and lack of inclusion of large sectors of the world population in the formal economy have led to a continuous and marked inequality between developed and developing countries. This imbalance is exemplified by strong pressure exerted towards liberalization of trade of industrialized goods and services while subsidies on primary goods are still a common practice among developed countries. This has also resulted in growing inequality within countries. The unprecedented increase of international migration flows, which reached an all-time high in 2013, and of human trafficking, as well as alarming levels of degradation of the environment, evidenced for instance in the loss of cropland and biodiversity, have been cited as signs of these disparities.

## B. Recommendations

31. A human rights-based approach to global governance, including accountability of both the public and private sectors, is key to making globalization inclusive. The engines of globalization, such as trade, finance, investment and intellectual property systems, must not further undermine the realization of human rights, nor should they be permitted to threaten the integrity of the Earth's fragile ecosystems. The rising complexities of international business and global value chains, call for renewed efforts at more comprehensive regulation. Human rights principles should be a vital component of such regulation, including in the area of the settlement of disputes.

32. Free trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties have a direct impact on the human rights of individuals, groups, communities and peoples. Where these are negotiated without the involvement, consultation or consent of the general public, they conflict with obligations under international human rights instruments, including human rights treaties and the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development. Global, regional and subregional arrangements for trade liberalization and promotion of foreign direct investment can diminish domestic policy space necessary to regulate in the public interest and to deliver on human rights obligations. Trade and

**investment negotiations must be insulated from political or regulatory capture by private sector actors, be consistent with the obligations of democratic political participation and not undercut guarantees for economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to food, water, health and social security. Towards this end, assessments of the potential impacts of trade and investment agreements on human rights are an essential prerequisite to future agreements. When undertaken, such assessments should also include recommendations on mechanisms for private sector accountability and victim redress.**

33. **States must ensure that their positions on sustainable development, trade, finance and investment are at all times consistent with their human rights obligations.**

34. **Potential recommendations for further action include business reporting on their human rights impacts; recognition of civil society organizations and affected communities, as key actors, including in the context of natural resource exploitation; safeguarding rights of participation, information, access to justice, and the fundamental freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association to ensure transparency and accountability; and human rights-based reform of global economic governance. Human rights, the rule of law and democratic governance at all levels should guide and regulate globalization. To this end, the right to development, which assures equality of opportunity for development to all individuals and peoples, and calls for active, free and meaningful participation in development and the fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom, must be fulfilled, so as to meet equitably the sustainable development needs of present and future generations.**

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**General and complete disarmament**

# Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 69/55, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control", the General Assembly invited all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they had adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in that resolution, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the Assembly at its seventieth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 2 February 2015, a note verbale was sent to all Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received thus far are contained in section II. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Replies received from Governments

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[21 April 2015]

Cuba stresses the need to observe environmental norms in all aspects of public life, including in the drafting and implementation of disarmament and arms control treaties.

Cuba ensures strict observance of environmental norms, including in the implementation of instruments to which it is a party, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Protecting the environment and natural resources is a high priority for Cuba, which has developed robust legislation that is enforced strictly by the competent bodies, including those responsible for implementing international disarmament and arms control obligations at the domestic level.

Cuba has many instruments to ensure environmental protection in the implementation of disarmament and arms control treaties and conventions to which it is a party, including:

- Article 27 of the Constitution, which refers to the concept of sustainable development
- Act No. 81/1997 on the environment, which sets forth the principles underpinning the country's environmental policy
- Legislative Decree No. 207 on the use of nuclear energy, which establishes the general rules in this area
- Decree No. 208 on the national system of accounting for and controlling nuclear material, which establishes the norms for the system, with the aim of ensuring the efficient management of nuclear material and the detection of any unauthorized use, loss or movement of such material

- The legal framework governing biosecurity and the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention, which is reflected in Legislative Decree No. 190/99 on biosafety, Decision No. 2/2004 of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, the regulations for accounting for and controlling biological materials, equipment and related technologies; the most recent update of the list of biological agents that affect people, animals and plants; and the regulations for biosafety certification, which are contained in Decisions Nos. 38/2006 and 180/2007, respectively, of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment
- Legislative Decree No. 202/1999, which governs the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention at the domestic level
- Decision No. 5517 of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of 2005, on contraventions resulting from violation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which rounded out the legislative measures needed to implement the Convention.

The existence of weapons of mass destruction and their ongoing development and potential use are among the most serious threats to international peace and security, to the fragile environmental balance on our planet, and to sustainable development for all peoples without distinction.

The only truly effective solution for preventing the dire consequences of the use of weapons of mass destruction is their total elimination.

Relevant environmental norms must be duly taken into account in international disarmament forums during the negotiation of international treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms control.

The Chemical Weapons Convention continues to be the only international agreement that provides for the verifiable destruction of weapons of mass destruction and the facilities where they are produced, and for the protection of humans and the environment.

Considering the more than 16,000 nuclear weapons that currently threaten the survival of the human race and the constant risk of death and destruction of the environment that would be posed by the use of just one hundred of those weapons, Cuba reiterates its call to begin without further delay negotiations for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame and under strict international control. A comprehensive treaty on nuclear disarmament must of necessity include environmental protection measures.

A legally binding and multilaterally negotiated protocol to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention is essential to protecting the environment and preserving the biodiversity of our planet.

## Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2015]

The National Naval Aviation Service of the Republic of Panama, as a law enforcement entity under the Ministry of Public Safety, is responsible for protecting

the lives, honour, property and rights and freedoms of persons under the State's jurisdiction, maintaining law and order, preventing criminal acts, and protecting the air and maritime spaces, navigable waterways, continental shelf and rivers and lakes of the Republic of Panama, while respecting the rule of law, democracy and human rights.

The National Naval Aviation Service of Panama therefore condemns in the strongest terms all forms of domestic and international terrorism, by whoever and by whatever means committed, and expresses its firm resolve to cooperate in the effort to prevent and combat terrorist acts, in the light of its commitment to peace and international security. Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control are measures that all countries must take for international stability.

Panama does not possess, import, handle or store weapons of mass destruction or nuclear weapons of any kind.

The current range of international agreements, conventions and regimes on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the international implementation measures taken by each country reflect the political will and the specific capacity of countries to join the efforts of the international community to combat the scourge of the spread of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Such multilateral agreements are clear examples of an effective and responsible multilateral effort in which all States had been involved, albeit for different reasons, some because they possessed those weapons, and others because they were able to develop and produce them.

In addition, the acquisition of technology in international markets has been a necessity for developing countries that aim to promote their scientific and technological development. Since they acquire goods and services from knowledge- and technology-exporting countries, they invariably need to have a policy of transparency that provides assurances as to the peaceful nature of their scientific and technological endeavours involving dual-use equipment.

## Portugal

[Original: English]
[24 April 2015]

At its sixty-ninth session, the General Assembly, recalling the previous resolutions adopted on that issue, reaffirmed the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control, particularly with regard to nuclear weapons. In that context, the Assembly adopted resolution 69/55, recognizing the importance of the adoption by the States of measures that ensure environmental progress, in the context of international security.

Portugal has adopted the highest standards regarding environmental protection and pollution prevention. Moreover, best-practice guidelines as well as recommendations from the relevant international organizations have been translated into national legislation, particularly the environmental directive for national defence, dated 19 April 2011. Furthermore, Portugal fully complies with European Union law concerning environmental norms.

The Portuguese armed forces, in theatres of operations, comply with the most environmentally protective or favourable provisions enshrined either in the Portuguese legislation or in that of the host country.

In addition, Portugal is party to all major disarmament and non-proliferation conventions. In compliance with its international obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, Portugal has disposed of or destroyed its stock of, inter alia, cluster munitions and landmines and, in doing so, fully respected applicable environmental norms, which include standards agreed by the members of the European Union in Council directive 94/67/EC on the incineration of hazardous wastes.

Being party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention requires from Portugal control measures that are either fully in place or being implemented, thus contributing to environmental safety and security.

In addition, Portugal complies with such norms when destroying firearms that are found or seized by police forces. The procedures followed to destroy them are described in more detail in the Report of Portugal to the International Tracing Instrument of the United Nations and in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Portugal is a State signatory to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 31/72 on 10 December 1976, in which the States parties to that Convention recalled the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972, and it remains ready to proceed with its ratification.

## Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[14 April 2015]

Qatar does not possess any weapons that affect or are detrimental to the environment.

Qatar endorses and supports the international agreements on disarmament and arms control.

Qatar's Environmental Protection Act sets out upper limits for emissions and concentrations of pollutants in water, soil and the air.

The Armed Forces Office of the Environment ensures that all Armed Forces activities comply with environmental standards.

## Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[29 May 2015]

In Spain, the environmental norms of the European Union, which have been incorporated into Spanish law and are consequently binding, serve as the benchmark for environmental management.

Spain continues to follow the procedures described in reports of previous years for the destruction of weapons and ammunition in the implementation of the main disarmament and arms control agreements to which it is a party. Below are the highlights of each of these procedures.

**Destruction of anti-personnel mines**

The destruction of anti-personnel mines was carried out by the Spanish company Fabricaciones Extremeñas, which guaranteed maximum safety and zero environmental impact, in conformity with ISO-14000 standards and European Union Council Directive 94/67/EC on the incineration of hazardous waste. In all, 849,365 mines were destroyed in a record period of 28 months.

**Destruction of conventional weapons (Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe)**

In the case of Spain, 371 battle tanks and 87 artillery pieces had to be destroyed; the process was completed on 16 November 1995. Currently, further reductions are being made to offset the commissioning of new equipment and to ensure that the limits laid down in the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe are not exceeded.

**Destruction of small arms and light weapons**

Spain also observes environmental norms with regard to the destruction of small arms and light weapons, as set out in the document of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on such weapons.

**Destruction of cluster munitions**

In accordance with the ISO 14001:2004 standard and European Union Council Directive 94/67/EC, Spain has destroyed all cluster munitions supplied to its armed forces, with the exception of those retained for development and training, pursuant to article 3, paragraph 6, of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Between December 2008 and December 2014, 1,150 ESPIN-21 mortar grenades, 1,923 MAT-120 mortar grendades, and 588 CBU-100, 38 CBU-99 B and 410 BME-330 B/AP aerial bombs were destroyed.

## Ukraine

[Original: English]
[9 June 2015]

The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine implementing the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects have carried out a number of demining activities in Ukraine.

In 2014, pyrotechnic units of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine found, defused and destroyed more than 151,100 explosive devices. A total area of about

3,030 hectares was cleared, including humanitarian demining on the territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions liberated from terrorist groups.

Compliance with international and Ukrainian environmental legislation is the basis for planning and the implementation of the international obligations of Ukraine on the utilization of anti-personnel mines PFM-1 and solid rocket fuel for intercontinental ballistic missiles SS-24.

Among existing disposal methods (burning, blasting, machine cut, cryogenic extraction, chemical destruction, hydro-extraction) for disposal of ICBM SS-24 solid rocket fuel, Ukraine selected hydromechanical extraction from rocket shells engines with subsequent processing of the extracted fuel in industrial emulsion explosives.

This technology allows for extracting and processing fuel without any emissions into the atmosphere, water or soil. Replacing TNT-containing explosives with emulsion explosives follows modern practice.

PFM-1 (1C) anti-personnel land mines and waste from extraction and processing of solid rocket fuel are destroyed in a specially engineered and equipped facility. That unit is equipped with the latest systems for afterburning, filtering and neutralizing harmful solid and gaseous emissions, preventing the release of such emissions into the environment.

The empty shell engines disposal unit, built at the plant with assistance of the United States of America and designed by the German company Eisenmann, is also equipped with systems for afterburning, filtering and neutralizing harmful solid and gaseous emissions.

The hazard level of solid material formed after disposing of the SS-24 solid rocket fuel and PFM-1 anti-personnel mines allows the usage of such waste in the construction of buildings and roads.

As a result of the activities of terrorist groups and the aggression of the Russian Federation, a significant portion of the liberated territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, with a total area of about 7,000 $km^2$, is contaminated with explosive devices and requires humanitarian demining.

The humanitarian demining of settlements, power, gas, heat and water supply units and social sector properties is performed as a first priority in the territories liberated from terrorist groups.

Within the framework of international cooperation in the field of humanitarian demining, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine continues to implement joint projects with the Project Coordinator of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Ukraine, for example on increasing the technical capacity of the Government of Ukraine for the underwater clean-up of Black and Azov Sea areas from explosive remnants of war, or on assistance to the Government of Ukraine for the rehabilitation of areas contaminated by explosive remnants of war and as a result of emergency situations in places of storage of ammunition. It also implements jointly with the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine a project on assistance to respond to contamination by explosive remnants of war and remnants of rocket fuel components. The joint Ukraine-North Atlantic Treaty Organization project on providing support for humanitarian demining in Ukraine has been launched.

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# Ways to promote effective structured and sustainable youth participation

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 68/130. It provides a compilation of recent initiatives and activities related to the development and implementation of youth policies and programmes at all levels, based on input from Member States, United Nations entities and civil society youth organizations.

* A/70/150.

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# I. Introduction

1. On 18 December 2013, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/130 on policies and programmes involving youth, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the resolution, "including on ways to promote effective, structured and sustainable youth participation in designing, implementing and assessing United Nations youth policies, programmes and initiatives, to be prepared in consultation with Member States as well as the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and also encourages the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations". Further to that request, the Secretariat consulted with relevant entities and received responses from 19 Member States,[1] 18 United Nations entities[2] and 4 youth-led structures.[3]

2. Section II of the report highlights activities in the development of policies and programmes for youth and efforts towards their monitoring and evaluation. It presents an overview of efforts and mechanisms to promote youth participation, including in the design, implementation and assessment of United Nations youth policies, programmes and initiatives, as well as via the involvement of youth and youth-led organizations in decision-making, and through participation in Member State delegations. Sections III through IX present activities and initiatives undertaken to enhance the situation of youth in the following areas: education, employment, health, violence and conflict, discrimination and gender equality, youth participation and intergenerational relations.

3. Section X sets out the recommendations of Member States, United Nations entities and youth organizations on how to more effectively address the challenges hindering the development and participation of youth, including through enhancing efforts to ensure effective and meaningful youth participation.

# II. Development of policies and programmes for youth

4. Increased efforts to develop, implement and measure holistic policies and programmes for youth have been undertaken by Member States and United Nations

[1] Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Fiji, Finland, Honduras, Italy, Malawi, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Singapore, Switzerland, Togo and the United States of America.

[2] United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office and United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

[3] European Youth Forum, International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations, Major Group for Children and Youth and World Alliance of YMCAs.

entities in recent years. In particular, a focus on education and employment has been central to the development of youth and youth-related policies in Member States. Efforts to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of youth policies are also reflective of work by the United Nations to develop a proposed set of indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth (E/CN.5/2013/8), so as to support its implementation. The present section provides an overview of the efforts of Member States, the United Nations and youth civil society to ensure the development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of youth policies at the local, national, regional and international levels.

5. The development of holistic and integrated policies for youth is a priority for Member States, allowing them to target the specific needs and challenges of youth while ensuring young people's participation in the development, implementation and review of such policies. A number of Member States have developed or are in the process of developing a specific national youth policy (Angola, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Colombia, Finland, Madagascar, Malawi, Peru, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe). Where a national youth policy is not in place, Member States have developed sectoral youth-related policies at the local, federal and national levels and/or ensured inclusion of youth priorities in other policy frameworks (China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Italy, United States of America).

6. As highlighted throughout the report, youth policy remains a priority for United Nations entities, with many providing technical assistance and support to governments in the development and revision of national youth policies, through country, regional and global offices, including on policies to address youth unemployment and underemployment. In addition, accelerated attention has been placed on youth via the development and implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP). In 2014, the United Nations released its first report[4] on the development of the Youth-SWAP, while throughout 2014 and 2015 activities to support the implementation at the country, regional and international levels were undertaken. Efforts to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the Youth-SWAP are being led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in its capacity as permanent co-chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development along with the 2014/2015 co-chair, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the 2015/2016 co-chair, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition, United Nations entities have utilized momentum under the Youth-SWAP to develop or enhance entity-specific youth strategies aimed at better including youth in their processes and activities. These include the UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) corporate youth strategy and the FAO strategic framework on rural youth.

7. As part of its "Making Commitments Matter: a toolkit for young people to evaluate national youth policy" youth-policies strategy, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in partnership with UNESCO, UNDP, the

[4] United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth Report 2014. Available from http://unyouthswap.org/system/refinery/resources/2014/10/15/20_42_35_106_UN_Youth_SWAP_Report_2014.pdf.

International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Commonwealth Secretariat and regional institutions, is conducting regional workshops on the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth policies, and is producing an updated toolkit on youth-related policies.

8. Under its Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021, UNESCO has been supporting the development and review of national youth policies in Africa, the Arab States and Asia, applying a participatory and inclusive approach that actively engages youth organizations in constructive dialogue with policymakers. Also, the Networks of Mediterranean Youth, the UNESCO flagship project funded by the European Union, is currently building the capacities of youth organizations to design and apply creative methods for the implementation of the different components of a national youth policy (Lebanon and Morocco). In addition, UNESCO is providing technical assistance and youth-sensitive policy advice for other sectorial public policies that impact young women and men, within its fields of competence.

9. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has carried out situational analysis research and expert group meetings on youth in the Asia-Pacific region, providing recommendations and technical support on how to develop and implement more inclusive and sustainable youth policies. In Eastern and Southern Africa, collaboration between United Nations partners (the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNESCO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO)), the African Union, regional economic commissions (Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC)), and civil society organizations aims at strengthening commitment and inter-agency coordination and creating stronger synergies between policies and programmes at all levels to ensure systematic investment in young people's development.

**Events on youth policies**

10. Events to encourage the accelerated development and implementation of youth policies were convened, such as the first Global Forum on Youth Policies, hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan with the support of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, UNESCO, UNDP and the Council of Europe (October 2014) and the High-level Event of the General Assembly marking the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth (May 2015), organized by the Office of the President of the General Assembly with the support of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and members of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development.

**Monitoring and evaluation of youth policies**

11. Member States have undertaken efforts to establish their own mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of implementation of youth policies (Cambodia, Mexico) including through indicators for the assessment of youth development at local and national levels (Colombia), and via the collection and information sharing of data pertaining to youth policies (Switzerland). Likewise, United Nations entities

have bolstered efforts to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth through the collection of data (the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)). Sixty-seven States members of ITU have begun reporting disaggregated information and communications technology (ICT) data by age and gender, while via its participatory slum upgrading programme UN-Habitat collects and analyses disaggregated data on hunger and poverty while also developing activities and monitoring tools. Further, through its City Prosperity Index, UN-Habitat is working with the Government of Saudi Arabia to develop a set of indicators related to youth engagement in governance and the socioeconomic life of youth, which will be later rolled out in Colombia.

12. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, ECLAC collects data on the situation of young people and on the opportunities available to them in several priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth, while UNDP supported the development of the first Ibero-American Youth Survey with the Ibero-American Youth Organization and national youth institutes. In the Caribbean, the UNDP Office for Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) supported the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan to inform the activities of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Youth Development Action Plan, while in the Asia-Pacific region, UNDP partnered with the Asian Barometer Survey to increase understanding on the level of youth participation in democratic and political processes in the region. In Eastern and Southern Africa, UNFPA commissioned the University of Pretoria to undertake a regional review of national laws and policies related to access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

13. Youth-led organizations pointed to their active involvement in informing discussions and development of youth policies (the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations, the European Youth Forum, the Major Group for Children and Youth), both pertaining to their own work and working with United Nations entities and Member States in their elaboration.

## III. Education

14. Together with scaling up efforts to ensure that young people have access to formal education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, Member States have increasingly recognized the complementarity of non-formal education in ensuring young people's full and lifelong education. Incorporating aspects of non-formal learning into the formal education curricula, enhancing access to education, focusing on vocational and technical training and skills development, as well as working to ease the school-to-work transition and skills gap, are priority areas of work for Member States, the United Nations and youth-led organizations.

15. Efforts have been undertaken by several Member States to provide young people access to both formal and non-formal education. Cambodia works with UNESCO to promote non-formal education services, including in ICT, and promotes voluntary activities enabling young people to acquire relevant skills for employability and entrepreneurial development. Malawi conducted a literacy and numeracy programme aimed at educating young people who have dropped out of the formal education system, while Italy promotes civic education, volunteering and

youth mobility through its Youth Camps project and the National Civic Service. Colombia has undertaken efforts to increase enrolment and completion of primary and secondary-level education through its "Todos a Apprender" and "Ser Pilo Paga" programmes, with a focus on education and labour market transition. The Government of Swaziland ratified the Education for All agenda with a goal of attaining universal primary education by 2015, while it also runs the Sebenta National Institute, which provides education, literacy and skills in a non-formal setting.

16. Programmes to enhance the skills of young people in ICT have been developed in some Member States (Cambodia, Italy, Peru, United States of America), including the ConnectED initiative in the United States, which aims to strengthen the linkages between education and ICT. In Peru, ICT-focused programmes promote technical education with specific links to regional and local economic opportunities, while the National Program of Scholarships and Education Loans targets vocational and technical careers in higher level institutions.

17. United Nations entities have undertaken efforts to promote the education of young people in all spheres. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, ECLAC organized a regional seminar for secondary education in 2014; supported work in publishing an online observatory of inclusive education in the Latin American region; and published the "Literacy among youth and adult women in Latin America and the Caribbean: an analysis of the main programs". The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) works to facilitate young girls in accessing educational facilities and on creating safe and violence-free school environments (China). Additionally, UN-Women provides vocational training to out of school girls and young women as a means of providing them with opportunities for their economic empowerment (Pakistan and South Sudan). FAO has developed the global education and advocacy initiative Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger to introduce young people to the issues of hunger, malnutrition and food security, while it also works to assist governments in the inclusion and design of youth-friendly and climate-smart methodologies for vocational and professional education. UN-Habitat has launched the Innovate Kenya programme, which promotes ICT and entrepreneurship training in the slums and informal settlements of Nairobi.

**Education for sustainability**

18. Ensuring a strong link between education and the environment is a priority. UNEP promotes environmental education within formal and non-formal education systems through its Greening Universities Toolkit: Transforming Universities into Green and Sustainable Campuses and is supporting the design and implementation of pilot projects in Chile, Indonesia and the United Republic of Tanzania on the institutional strengthening of education for sustainable consumption. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is a co-sponsor of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative, along with the United Nations University (UNU), UNESCO, UNEP and the United Nations Global Compact/the Principles for Responsible Management Education, a partnership that brings together 272 universities across the world which have committed to provide primarily young people with instruction in sustainability, to conduct and promote research on sustainable development, to reach out to their communities to promote sustainability, and to share their knowledge on sustainability through networks.

# IV. Employment

**Addressing the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment**

19. Countries have developed targeted actions or strategies to combat youth unemployment (Algeria, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, France, Ghana, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, United States of America). Programmes and policies aimed at increasing youth's vocational and technical skills have been implemented in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Malawi, Peru, Switzerland and Togo, in some cases through the development of training and innovation programmes (Bahrain, China, Colombia), while the United States implements numerous skills development programmes targeting at-risk youth. In recognition of the increased attention to the importance of equipping young people with the skills needed to meet the demands of the labour market, the General Assembly in 2014 adopted a resolution designating a World Youth Skills Day to be commemorated on 15 July each year (resolution 69/145).

20. The promotion of entrepreneurship, including via training, improved access to credit and financial literacy, was highlighted as a means of promoting full employment (Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Djibouti, Ghana, Honduras, Italy, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Peru, Switzerland, Togo). At the same time, developing multi-stakeholder programmes and partnerships between the public and private sector has also been used as a means of stimulating youth employment (Colombia, Italy, Malawi, Switzerland). Ensuring a focus on rural youth, including via the development of youth agricultural employment policies and programmes, was also noted (Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Mauritania, Togo). To this end a number of United Nations entities are working with Member States to develop youth-friendly financial services and increase young people's access to finance and improve literacy. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has worked with 10 financial service providers across 8 countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop, pilot and roll out youth-focused financial products, especially savings, and non-financial services such as financial literacy for youth aged 12 to 24. UNCDF leveraged its expertise by contributing to the development of a joint United Nations initiative in Senegal and in Rwanda to address the challenge of youth employment and advocated for a market-led solution to access to finance for youth. Meanwhile, UN-Habitat's Urban Youth Fund provides funding to youth-led organizations for entrepreneurial focused projects, enabling their access to finance, while it works to improve youth employability and skills development through its participatory slum-upgrading policies and initiatives. UN-Women partners with governments and civil society for provision of skill-based training and livelihood support to girls and young women, and engages with young men and students in developing innovative gender-sensitive programmes and technologies aimed at promoting the economic empowerment of girls and young women.

**Regional considerations**

**African region**

21. Africa is experiencing positive economic growth, yet progress is slow in the creation of productive employment and decent work, with youth underemployment a particular challenge for the region. To better address the issue, a number of countries have developed national youth employment policies and action plans, including Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. In 2015, ILO supported the initiative to make the Youth-SWAP an integral part of the work on youth employment of the United Nations in Zambia.

22. In Africa, the Economic Community of West African States is implementing a regional action plan for youth, while Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia are building entrepreneurial capacities for young men and women, along with facilitating their access to labour market information and career guidance. In Egypt, public employment services have improved their ability to provide career education, counselling and job placement for youth, while a national youth employment initiative was launched in Malawi in 2013. Comoros is implementing a programme of apprenticeships, entrepreneurial training and labour market mediation services. Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Kenya are improving the provision of technical and vocational skills training and have adopted labour-intensive technologies in infrastructure investments.

23. Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo and Zimbabwe have developed new vocational training for rural youth, while Uganda is supporting efforts by young people to establish small and medium enterprises. In Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, entrepreneurship promotion, business start-up and management skills and access to finance for young entrepreneurs have been expanded. Burundi and South Sudan have developed similar interventions to support returnee refugees, displaced persons and ex-combatants. Togo, through its National Volunteerism Promotion Programme, places emphasis on the importance of youth volunteerism in the development of experience and skills which contribute to young people's economic development, while also carrying out programmes to promote the employment of young artists and entrepreneurship of rural youth.

24. In the Eastern and South African region, UN-Women launched the Young Innovators Award to incentivize local youth to develop gender-sensitive technologies in the agricultural sector. Similarly in Rwanda, UN-Women contributed to the Joint Flagship Programme on Value Chain Development that aimed to formalize the informal private sector with a special focus on women and youth. The United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV), through collaboration on youth volunteer programmes with governments and United Nations entities at the country level, has reported that 66 per cent and 44 per cent of young people were able to find decent work owing to their voluntary experiences in Burkina Faso and Togo, respectively.

**Latin American and Caribbean region**

25. Various countries in the region have increased support for programmes promoting youth employment, such as "Jóvenes con más y mejor trabajo" in Argentina, "Empléate" in Costa Rica and "Jóvenes a la obra" in Peru. Legislation was passed in Uruguay, and progress was made in policy development concerning

decent work for youth in Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador and Paraguay. Alongside these policies, job placement systems focused on youth have been developed, vocational training programmes have been strengthened and targeted surveys have been conducted to gather relevant information on the school-to-work transition in Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Jamaica and Peru. Colombia focuses on the talent and innovation of young people in producing digital content via the establishment of 17 ViveLabs, which have helped Colombia to generate the largest network of entrepreneurs in the region.

26. The work of ILO on youth employment in the Latin American and Caribbean region has a strong emphasis on the transition from informal to formal employment. ILO held a tripartite regional meeting (April 2015) on "What works for youth employment and transition to formality" that highlighted a number of suggestions for duplication and upscaling. ECLAC is currently involved in two projects in the region: a joint development account project with ESCAP to support selected Latin American and Asian countries in their efforts to strengthen their national training systems in order to promote the productive integration, especially of youth, into the labour market; and a study on the school-to-work transition among youth based on household surveys in the region.

**Arab States**

27. The youth unemployment crisis is part of an overall jobs problem in the Arab region, which does not generate enough decent and productive jobs for all and where young people are severely affected. Some countries in the region have improved the overall business environment, but overall performance is still lower than global averages. Education and skills outcomes of young Arabs do not compare well on a global scale and enterprises invest little in skills. In addition, many countries in the Middle East and North Africa region are in emergency situations, hindering development efforts. Against this background, ILO aims to support policies and programmes conducive to the creation and improvement of jobs for youth. Within the region, the Kingdom of Bahrain, through its Youth City 2030 initiative, has developed and implemented numerous activities and programmes aimed at better facilitating youth's entry to the labour market, enhancing their leadership skills and harnessing young people's creativity and innovation through the establishment of training programmes and innovation centres, with a focus on science, technology and the arts.

**Asia-Pacific region**

28. Significant progress has been achieved in a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region in support of the production and use of labour statistics for evidence-based employment policymaking. Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Samoa produced their first-ever labour force survey reports, including on youth, informal employment and migration. Bangladesh is piloting quarterly labour force surveys, while Fiji is testing an annual labour market data series. Provincial labour force surveys have been piloted in the Philippines.

**Europe and Central Asia**

29. Youth unemployment is a priority concern in the Europe and Central Asia region. To address this concern, ILO has contributed to the development of action

plans on youth employment in several countries, most recently in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through the provision of technical assistance and the establishment of a national tripartite working group. In the last few years, ILO has increased its technical support on youth employment-related issues in the Western European region, including via the development of the European Youth Guarantee Schemes, such as that implemented in Finland, which guarantees that every young person under age 25 and every recent graduate under age 30 will be offered a job, work trial, study placement or rehabilitation within three months of registering as unemployed. Meanwhile, in Italy a package of measures entitled "Diritto al futuro" (Right to the Future) has been set up to tackle the high youth unemployment situation, including through the provision of funds and access to credit for young people. Switzerland, though having a low youth unemployment rate, standing at roughly 3 per cent, places attention on ensuring quality education so as to ease the school-to-work transition for young people.

30. The ILO "Partnerships for youth employment in the Commonwealth of Independent States" project (funded by Lukoil) supports institutions and other actors in the identification of effective responses to tackle the youth employment crisis, including through cooperation and partnerships at regional, national and subnational levels. The initiative established a regional network of experts and practitioners that promotes cooperation and development of knowledge on youth employment and facilitates capacity-building of constituents. Members of the network, after relevant training, are currently pioneering a voluntary peer review mechanism (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, the Russian Federation) and, by applying this tool, strengthening capacities of national policymakers (governments as well as social partners) to analyse the youth labour market and design and evaluate employment policies and strategies for youth.

31. Ensuring digital skills development is central to addressing youth employment concerns. ITU has continued to encourage policymakers to ensure that youth in their countries are included in the growing number of job and business opportunities by incorporating digital skills development in the school curriculum and supporting innovation hubs, contests, mobile app labs, hackathons and co-working space.

32. UNEP, in its work on promoting a transition towards an inclusive green economy, recognizes the importance of education and training of youth, and has worked within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) roll-out countries to promote green and decent jobs opportunities for young people.

## V. Health

33. Health care and access to health information and services are central to ensuring youth development. A number of Member States are implementing specific youth-focused health-care programmes and services (Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, Honduras, Italy, Malawi, Peru, Swaziland, Switzerland, United States of America), including on health promotion and education; nutrition, eating disorders and obesity; the effects of non-communicable and communicable diseases; sexual and reproductive health including HIV and AIDS; substance abuse; physical fitness; mental health; early pregnancies, maternal and child health; and accessibility of health-care services for youth with disabilities.

34. The elimination of barriers hindering young people's access to health care was noted as of importance by Peru, Finland and the United States of America, while the active participation of young people in helping to define health priorities and health-care responses is a priority in Cambodia and Italy. In addition, sharing of good practice and research among Member States, for example through the Adolescent and Young Adult Health Research Network (the United States), forms a central part of the health response.

**Health education and literacy**

35. Ensuring the provision of health education and literacy forms an integral aspect of the health-care responses of many governments, through incorporation into school curricula (Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, Swaziland, United States of America, Zambia), including on sexual and reproductive health (Finland, Malawi, Switzerland), provision of community-based health-care centres (Democratic Republic of the Congo, United States of America), public campaigns and increased access to affordable, safe, effective and sustainable health-care services to youth (Cambodia, Finland, Swaziland).

**Sexual and reproductive health, including on HIV and AIDS service provision**

36. In Malawi, sports and recreational activities are used as a tool to help to engage and educate young people about the risk of HIV infection, while ensuring that service provision for young people living with HIV and AIDS is central to the health policy of both Cambodia and Costa Rica.

37. A number of United Nations entities are carrying out trainings, events and programmes related to sexual and reproductive health and HIV and AIDS, including FAO, ESCAP, UNFPA, ECLAC, UN-Women, UNEP, UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO, looking at issues such as the legal and policy barriers to young people's access to health services and the importance of engaging youth at all stages of programme and policy development.

38. In Eastern and Southern Africa, UNFPA is supporting the assessment of quality and coverage of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Eastern African Community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) through the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Africa Regional Office, to inform the development of regional standards and guidelines. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, the subject of adolescent pregnancy is of special concern with adolescent fertility rates remaining at high levels. In response, ECLAC published a report [5] examining persistent gaps in adolescent pregnancy between women by socioeconomic status, place of residence and ethnicity. In the Arab States region, UN-Women organized a joint consultation with the participation of top representatives from the League of Arab States, the Government of Algeria, key parliamentarians, religious leadership, national AIDS programmes, and other key stakeholders, including young women leaders, to generate political will for implementation of the Arab AIDS strategy and address the AIDS epidemic in the Middle East and North Africa region.

[5] "Reproduction in adolescence and its inequalities in Latin America: introduction to demographic analysis, with an emphasis on the use of census microdata from the 2010 round of censuses" (2014).

**Youth mental health**

39. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs released its report entitled "Mental Health Matters: Social inclusion of youth with mental health conditions" (ST/ESA/352) and utilized momentum around the report to commemorate International Youth Day 2014 under the theme "Mental Health Matters", for which the Department and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth organized a global campaign and event in drawing attention to the issue of eliminating stigma surrounding young people with mental health conditions.

## VI. Violence and conflict

**Addressing all forms of violence**

40. Legislative reforms have been undertaken in many countries to prohibit violence in all its forms, and have been accompanied by capacity-building and awareness-raising efforts. These measures have led to a decrease in the acceptance of the use of violence, and a greater tendency to report incidents of violence. Specific measures to strengthen or establish programmes and policies to address all forms of violence have been established (Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Switzerland, United States of America), including on trafficking in persons and the commercial sexual exploitation of children, bullying and cyberbullying, violence in the media, the involvement and manipulation of youth in criminal activities, as well as to develop safe and youth-friendly counselling and substance abuse prevention programmes. Efforts to eliminate gender-based violence, such as through Finland's National Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women, have been undertaken by a number of Member States (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Peru).

41. United Nations entities are bolstering the efforts of Member States to prevent all forms of violence. UN-Women works with governments to inform the political and policy processes to introduce and/or implement legislation protecting the rights of women and girls. ECLAC initiated a development account project on social inclusion of youth in contexts of increasing violence and insecurity, with a focus on Central America, while the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children has supported the efforts of countries which have adopted national time-bound agendas to address all forms of violence against children and youth, such as in the Dominican Republic.

42. The United States has implemented measures towards prevention of bullying, including through training, toolkits and educational campaigns. While in response to increasing concerns about cyberbullying, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children published a report entitled "Releasing Children's Potential and Minimizing Risks — ICTs, the Internet and Violence against Children", which was informed by an expert consultation co-hosted with Costa Rica and built upon consultations held with children and adolescents. Moreover, at its sixty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on protecting children from bullying (resolution 69/158).

**Juvenile justice**

43. A number of Member States have identified working on juvenile justice issues as a priority, supporting reform and programmes aimed at preventing young people from coming into conflict with the law as well as ensuring requisite support, facilities and rehabilitation of those already in the juvenile justice system (Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, Peru, United States of America). In January 2015, the Government of Switzerland, together with the Terre des Hommes Foundation, organized the World Congress on Juvenile Justice, while in December 2014 the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (resolution 69/194, annex).

44. The development of safe and youth-friendly counselling and substance abuse prevention programmes is integral to preventing substance abuse in young people as well as supporting those who are managing substance abuse issues. Initiatives include the use of campaigns (United States of America) and vocational skills and counselling programmes (UN-Habitat)

**Youth in armed conflict, including young people affected or exploited by terrorism and incitement**

45. In order to address the issue of young people affected by terrorism and incitement, in April 2015, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in its presidency of the Security Council, initiated a Security Council ministerial open debate on the Role of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism and Promoting Peace. Further to the debate, Jordan organized the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security (August 2015), with the support of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, UNFPA, UNDP, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UNPBSO), the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and two civil society organizations, the United Network of Young Peacebuilders and the Search for Common Ground. The Government of Finland has implemented its first national action plan for the prevention of violent extremism where youth are identified as a vulnerable group, while in 2015 national guidelines for child protection services were updated to include violent extremism, specifically cases where a minor is suspected of attempting to travel or be taken to a conflict area with extremist motives.

46. In Colombia, a policy on the prevention of the recruitment and use of children and adolescents by organized armed and criminal groups seeks to provide young people with opportunities for engagement and development through its Golombiao programme, and has also launched a national diploma on peacebuilding for young people together with UNICEF and UNFPA. Supporting the efforts of Member States, United Nations entities, donors, national and international non-governmental organizations and civil society, the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development's Working Group on Participation of Young People in Peacebuilding launched a set of Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding in 2014, providing guidance on meaningful youth engagement and participation, especially in conflict or transition settings. The Guiding Principles have been launched in 8 countries (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Yemen) and endorsed by the Commonwealth's African and Caribbean Ministers of Youth. A practice note on young people's participation in peacebuilding is currently under development,

aimed at informing policymakers and donors of key strategic and programming considerations for supporting young people's participation in peacebuilding. UN-Habitat, UNDP, ILO and FAO are working to implement a youth and livelihoods programme in Somalia, targeting youth affected by armed conflict; while in 2014 UN-Women provided intergovernmental support to the Government of Nigeria for the recovery of young girls abducted by Boko Haram.

## VII. Discrimination and gender equality

### Social inclusion of youth

47. Poverty and lack of employment are deemed key contributors to social exclusion and lack of opportunity (Finland, Italy, Switzerland), with young people often facing discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, access to credit, health care, service provision and education. As such, ensuring equal opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged youth is a priority in the national action plans of a number of Member States, including in the Government programme of Finland 2011-2015 and the National Programme for the Prevention and Fight against Poverty of Switzerland, where a specific focus on providing training and education, as well as access to basic services and the labour market, were noted as important in ensuring social inclusion, particularly for migrant youth.

### Indigenous and minority youth

48. Ensuring the inclusion and protection of the rights of indigenous youth was deemed a priority by Costa Rica, Finland, Peru and the United States of America. Finland has undertaken programmes to keep indigenous languages alive and provide support to indigenous youth structures, while Peru works to strengthen the capacity of rural and indigenous youth in their local social and political spaces, through entrepreneurship and training schemes. Costa Rica works through sports-based initiatives to ensure inclusion of indigenous and minority youth, and the United States launched Generation Indigenous, an initiative which aims to improve opportunities for native American youth.

49. In order to protect the rights of minority youth, Finland provides structural and financial support to Roma community and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth structures and activities as part of the government child and youth policy programme, while the inclusion of youth with disabilities is the subject of a number of schemes in Costa Rica and in the United States, aimed at enabling labour market access of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

50. In partnership with the Global Policy Initiative of Columbia University, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth organized a two-day expert group meeting on the marginalization and inequalities facing youth (March 2014), bringing together academics, practitioners, civil society and youth activists to discuss the issue of youth marginalization.

### Addressing the challenges faced by girls and young women

51. The promotion of gender equality and the implementation of actions to address the challenges faced by girls and young women is a priority for a number of Member States (Cambodia, Finland, Honduras). Issues of specific concern included

the prevention of early marriage of girls and young women and the ending of female genital mutilation. Under the guise of an African Union "End Child Marriage in Africa" campaign (2014), a number of Member States are launching or will launch their own national campaigns (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia), while the UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office is supporting efforts in the region to implement legislation to eradicate child marriage and protect children already in marriages. Finland is implementing its action plan for the prevention of the circumcision of girls and young women, while in the United Republic of Tanzania a community-based approach aimed at increasing awareness of the need to prevent/fight against female genital mutilation, to provide reproductive health services and to demand justice and support for alternative rites of passage for adolescent girls is under way.

52. A number of United Nations entities pointed to internal strategies to ensure gender equality within their structures and activities (UN-Habitat, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ECLAC, UN-Women, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth). UN-Women has launched various flagship campaigns such as the UNiTE and HeForShe campaigns to address the multitude of challenges being faced by girls and young women across the world. ITU works to draw attention to the empowerment of girls and young women through ICT via a women's digital literacy campaign. United Nations entities have carried out specific programmes and/or research on gender equality and the rights of girls and young women (ECLAC, UN-Women), as well as work to increase the capacities of girls and young women and their participation in political spheres and decision-making processes (UN-Women).

## VIII. Participation

53. In recognition of the central role youth participation plays in youth development, Member States and United Nations entities have increased efforts to establish mechanisms and processes enabling youth engagement in decision-making processes at local, national, regional and international levels.

### Involvement of youth and youth-led organizations in decision-making

54. Member States stressed the importance of ensuring the active involvement of youth in decision-making and policy development at all levels (Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, Switzerland, Togo), and highlighted various consultations and events they carry out with young people and youth-led organizations to help inform their work, policies and decision-making processes (Bahrain, China, Colombia, Italy, Mexico, Switzerland, Togo). Creating enabling environments and providing support to youth structures and national youth councils was highlighted as a means of supporting sustainable youth participation (Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Italy, Malawi, Switzerland, Togo, United States of America).

55. In order to better foster the participation of youth in institutional structures, a number of countries have instigated municipal, regional or national participation mechanisms, such as youth parliaments or advisory bodies, which contribute to the

activities of the national government (Colombia, Honduras, Italy, Malawi, Peru, Switzerland).

**Youth delegate participation**

56. A number of Member States included youth delegates as part of their delegations to United Nations intergovernmental meetings (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Dominican Republic, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Israel, Kenya, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Singapore, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United States of America) with Azerbaijan and Ireland launching Youth Delegates programmes in 2015. In addition, a number of countries sent youth representatives to attend the World Youth Conference (Sri Lanka, 2014), the Global Forum on Youth Policies (Azerbaijan, 2014), the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum (United Nations Headquarters, 2014 and 2015), the IV Youth Forum of the Americas (Panama, 2015), and the Young ICT Policy Leaders Programme at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14) (Republic of Korea, 2014).

57. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs works to support the participation of the United Nations youth delegates during the meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission for Social Development through the organization of activities, and training and information-sharing, while the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations, the European Youth Forum, and the Major Group for Children and Youth all work via trainings, information-sharing and outreach to help to coordinate the work of youth delegates to the United Nations processes and meetings, including the High-level Political Forum, the General Assembly and the Commission for Social Development.

**Youth participation in the work of the United Nations**

58. United Nations entities are increasing their efforts to promote the active involvement of youth and youth-led organizations in their own activities and processes. Both FAO and UNDP have developed entity-specific youth strategies, while the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth undertakes outreach and awareness-raising on youth issues with young people through participation in events and campaigns. The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development builds stronger partnerships between youth and the normative work of the United Nations system by involving young people as part of its thematic working groups.

59. Ensuring youth involvement via advisory boards and platforms to United Nations entities is central to mainstreaming youth participation in the work of the United Nations. UNEP involves young people in the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and facilitates the involvement of the Major Group for Children and Youth in the work of the UNEP governing organs, while UN-Habitat's Youth Advisory Board advises UN-Habitat on all its programmes.

60. United Nations entities also involve young people in the design and elaboration of specific activities and initiatives, such as in the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations annual summer school and its Annual Youth Forum, and the FAO Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA). The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with UNESCO and UN-Habitat, held an expert group meeting on youth civic engagement in 2014, discussing the

political, social and economic participation of youth at all levels, bringing together experts from academia, the private sector, United Nations entities and youth civil society. In 2015, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, together with the support of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, led the Youth Now campaign, aimed at drawing attention and increasing efforts to accelerate implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary.

61. Youth-led organizations and structures (the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations, the Major Group for Children and Youth, the European Youth Forum) expressed a need to strengthen mechanisms for youth participation within the United nations system, so as to better incorporate the voices of youth in decision-making.

**Youth participation in activities related to post-2015**

62. United Nations entities have been supporting work and efforts to ensure young people's active involvement in policy- and decision-making at the local and national levels pertaining to the post-2015 development agenda. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs actively promotes the systematic involvement of youth and youth-led organizations in the normative and intergovernmental work of the United Nations related to sustainable development follow-up and the post-2015 process, including the Open Working Group, through the "Major groups and other stakeholders" format. The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, ITU, UNFPA and the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC), with the support of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, the Major Group for Children and Youth and the International Coordination Meeting for Youth Organizations, launched the Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda (GPY2015) and facilitated youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations' advocacy efforts for youth issues in the post-2015 development agenda/sustainable development goals framework, including the Global Youth Call: Prioritizing Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

63. In the Eastern and Southern Africa region, UNFPA has supported a number of mechanisms which strengthen youth participation with the aim of positioning youth within the post-2015 development agenda, while UNFPA country offices in the region have supported the efforts of a number of Member States in organizing large-scale consultations with youth on the development of national youth policies, support to national youth council development, and consultations on priorities of the post-2015 development agenda (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe).

64. In order to promote youth participation in the Latin American and Caribbean region, ECLAC, in conjunction with the members of the Latin American and Caribbean Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth, organized a regional youth forum in Ecuador (2014), providing a space for dialogue between young people interested in the post-2015 development agenda and representatives from national and international entities, as well as civil society, resulting in the approval by governments of the Ibero-American region of a three-year-long regional programme on youth participation and empowerment.

65. United Nations entities have been actively supporting the participation of youth representatives in global, regional and national consultations, including

support to the United Nations youth delegates to the General Assembly and the Commission for Social Development; the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum 2014 and 2015; regional Economic and Social Council youth forums in the Arab States and in Latin America; the Commission on the Status of Women and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Youth Forum; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Youth Forum; the ASEAN People's Forum and the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Agenda; conferences of parties for multilateral environmental agreements and regional conferences of environment ministers; and the High-level Event of the President of the General Assembly on (a) the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth and (b) demographic dividend and youth employment.

66. The Major Group for Children and Youth has been actively involved in a number of United Nations-led processes, including a contribution to the High-level Political Forum and the follow-up and review section of the post-2015 development agenda, and capacity-building in United Nations processes, such as through the organization of trainings at Youth Blasts and Youth Forums with a focus on implementation of the sustainable development goals.

**United Nations entities supporting youth participation at the country level**

67. UNDP has supported a series of initiatives at the country level aimed at furthering the involvement of youth in decision-making, including through: youth involvement in the constitutional reform process (Tunisia); tackling youth unemployment through games (Republic of Moldova); technology (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia); repurposing vacant public spaces (Montenegro); collating narratives from thousands of young people in search for solutions (Kyrgyzstan), and competition (Albania); coming up with fresh ideas regarding education reform (Republic of Moldova); climate change (Armenia); combating corruption (Montenegro); recycling (Belarus); designing real-time feedback loops with local authorities to ensure that citizens' voices influence decision-making (Armenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia); support to the African Union's African Governance Architecture (AGA) National Youth Consultation in September 2014; support to the re-establishment of the Fiji National Youth Council; engaging youth through ICT (Kosovo); national youth anti-corruption campaign (Thailand); youth voices in post-2015 (Bangladesh); strengthening the democracy programme (Cambodia); youth empowerment through civic education (Mongolia); African-wide Regional Youth Integrity Camp, in collaboration with the Government of Kenya; support to young parliamentarians; and a United Nations joint programme (ILO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF) in China working with local youth organizations to train young volunteers in providing community social services to persons with disabilities.

68. UN-Women has been working on building the capacities of local youth as well as providing technical assistance to partner governments to ensure increased involvement of youth and youth-led organizations in national decision-making processes, through: the establishment of mentorship programmes (Brazil, Rwanda); support to the establishment of youth and women's councils (Rwanda); technical support to local advocacy movements in the approval of a youth statute (Brazil); the development of gender-inclusive youth groups' registration protocols and guidelines (Papua New Guinea); and capacity-building for stakeholders on youth participation

in electoral processes (United Republic of Tanzania). Meanwhile, UN-Habitat engages young people in the development of national urban policies (Rwanda); in public space planning (Bangladesh, Haiti, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Somalia); in urban planning training (Kenya); and through a joint action research project (Brazil, Kenya, Nepal, Yemen, Zimbabwe).

**Youth participation through volunteerism**

69. Youth participation through voluntary activities was recognized (Costa Rica, Peru, Togo, United States of America) as an important means of participation. The United Nations Volunteers programme has launched a global youth volunteer programme that provides young people under the age of 29 years the opportunity to contribute to sustainable development through voluntary activities at the local, national and global levels. At the same time, UNV has worked with United Nations entities at the country level to help to disseminate information on laws and policies on youth volunteerism, training, capacity-building and advocacy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Peru, Rwanda and Viet Nam. In collaboration with UNESCO, the Global Peace Foundation and the Global Young Leaders Academy, ESCAP convened the Asia-Pacific Conference on Youth Volunteerism to Promote Participation, Development and Peace (2014). ESCAP also brought together 100 young people from Thailand who participated in the National Training on Youth Volunteerism and Empowerment (2015).

## IX. Intergenerational relations

**Voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large**

70. Programmes to promote intergenerational dialogue and relations were undertaken by a number of Member States, including Cambodia, which worked with UNV to establish a multimechanism to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large. Colombia meanwhile carried out a programme called Young People Ask, which brought together young people and government officials and business leaders in dialogue. In Honduras, the *Plataforma de Gestión Vida Mejor* (*Better Life Management Platform*) strategy promotes interaction in the family between younger and older persons in rural areas via its National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition, where young people in targeted households can benefit from interventions including: (a) home gardens (orchard per household); (b) school feeding; (c) school and orchards; and (d) community gardens.

71. United Nations entities noted the importance of working to strengthen intergenerational partnerships, particularly in the light of the ageing of societies in many regions, and have carried out expert group meetings and released publications to bolster efforts on this front (ECLAC, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ESCAP, UN-Women, UNEP). UN-Habitat works to enhance positive intergenerational dynamics through the meaningful engagement of youth in decision-making and implementation of slum-upgrading initiatives, while UN-Women has introduced various mentoring programmes in member countries to provide youth, particularly women, opportunities for developing leadership skills

and increasing their representation within the political spheres, including in Brazil, West and Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and Asia and the Pacific.

72. The Secretary-General's 2013 report on intergenerational solidarity and the needs of future generations (A/68/322) included a tally of mechanisms and institutions around the world that are designed to promote the interests of future generations.

## X. Recommendations

73. Keeping in mind the inputs received from Member States, United Nations entities and civil society youth-led organizations, the following actions are recommended:

(a) **Ensure the participation of young people and their organizations in inclusive and representative decision-making processes at all levels, including national and regional youth councils;**

(b) **Develop, implement and monitor national policies and programmes in support of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the sustainable development goals that account for the diversity and the diverse needs of young people;**

(c) **Enhance exchange of experience, knowledge and expertise in youth policy and coordination between and among governments, youth-led organizations and structures, the private sector and United Nations entities, at the local, national and international levels.**

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Item 98 (r) of the provisional agenda*
**General and complete disarmament**

# Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 69/54, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation", requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventieth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 2 February 2015, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II. Additional replies will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Replies received from Governments

## Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[11 June 2015]

Argentina has traditionally advocated a comprehensive approach to actions and initiatives in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms regulation. These are areas where Argentina has been actively involved at the regional and global levels in defending the role of multilateralism in general, and of the United Nations in particular, in addressing the multifaceted challenges of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Argentina believes that the best way to promote multilateral disarmament and revitalize existing disarmament bodies while defending national interests is to embark upon substantive negotiations on the various issues on the agenda, within the framework of existing bodies, which are the best place to articulate national security stances.

Argentina has, therefore, actively promoted confidence-building measures, especially in the area of conventional weapons. It is committed to contributing to international peace and security through transparent participation in the international community's collective efforts in the firm belief that greater openness and transparency regarding arms will build confidence, promote stability, help States to moderate their transfer policies, and strengthen peace.

That being so, Argentina has been actively involved in, inter alia, the negotiations over the Arms Trade Treaty, the establishment of the Register of Conventional Arms, and meetings on the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, considering that international stability cannot be based solely on national controls and that these instruments contribute to peace and security. Argentina's emphasis on strengthening these mechanisms is part of its broader commitment over recent decades to the development, implementation and strengthening of subregional, regional and global confidence-building measures.

Argentina is also irrevocably committed to non-proliferation and, to date, is the only Latin American country that is a party to the five export control regimes

(Australia Group, Zangger Committee, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Wassenaar Arrangement and Missile Technology Control Regime).

In June 2015, Argentina began its second consecutive term as Chair of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group.

## Armenia

[Original: English]
[8 May 2015]

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery is a growing threat to international peace and security. While international treaties and export control regimes have slowed the spread of such weapons and delivery systems, there is still a risk of their proliferation. The possibility that terrorists may acquire those hazardous materials and their means of delivery adds a new critical dimension to this threat. All those issues deserve due attention, and a global approach is required in order to meet old and new challenges.

As a strong supporter of the effectiveness of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, Armenia actively participates in international forums and discussions. It pays particular attention to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. At the bilateral level, it cooperates to good effect with partner countries in countering the smuggling of hazardous materials.

At the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Armenia was a sponsor and voted in favour of resolutions aimed at continuing multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, prohibiting the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction, combating nuclear terrorism, preventing an arms race and preventing the first placement of weapons in outer space.

Much attention is paid to the implementation of Security Council resolutions. A governmental inter-agency working group was established for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and developing the 2015-2020 national action plan, which provides a comprehensive update of the policies, laws, regulations and current practices of Armenia. The plan was approved by the Government on 5 February 2015 and then submitted to the 1540 Committee.

Seizures of potentially dangerous materials in recent years in the South Caucasus region have highlighted the need for enhanced cooperation to prevent smuggling activities. The threat posed to regional and global security is best met through joint actions and cooperation. Armenia works actively with partner countries to strengthen capabilities in countering nuclear smuggling in a comprehensive manner. The joint action plan between Armenia and the United States of America on strengthening cooperation to counter nuclear smuggling, signed in July 2008, is well designed to meet those challenges. An intergovernmental working group was established within the framework of the action plan. The two countries regularly share information on current nuclear smuggling threats and trends and discuss best practices in the areas of nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and response to incidents of nuclear smuggling, including law enforcement and criminal liability.

Armenia retains its confidence in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Its three pillars — disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology — are equally important and valid. Full implementation of the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty should remain at the top of our agenda, while joint actions have to be taken to preserve the integrity of the Treaty. The Armenian side hopes that, at the 2015 Review Conference, the Parties will reaffirm their commitment to the Treaty and agree on actions to strengthen its implementation.

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[18 March 2015]

The effective resolution of global disarmament and non-proliferation issues requires the concerted efforts of all States. This reaffirms the importance of multilateralism.

A consensus reached through multilateral negotiations that are open to all States for participation on equal terms guarantees or facilitates States' commitment to, and the universality of, the ensuing agreements, measures or instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation.

The need to peacefully resolve existing international disputes also underscores the importance of multilateralism in addressing potential threats in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The existence of nuclear weapons remains the main threat to humanity. For Cuba, the total elimination of nuclear weapons is a priority in the field of disarmament and the only guarantee against their use or the threat of their use.

The stalemate in the negotiations within the multilateral disarmament machinery, which has persisted for several years and which stems from the lack of political will on the part of certain countries, makes it all the more necessary to intensify multilateral efforts.

The multilateral efforts made by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries include, notably, the promotion of nuclear disarmament and the proposal, endorsed by a large majority in the General Assembly, to start, as a matter of urgency, negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament on the prompt conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-weapons convention on the prohibition of the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

The Conference on Disarmament must accordingly agree on a balanced programme of work and, without delay, start negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

Similarly, the Disarmament Commission must agree on the agenda for its forthcoming substantive session and present specific recommendations on disarmament to the General Assembly.

Practice has shown that the goals of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation cannot be achieved through unilateral measures. Multilateralism and political solutions negotiated through the multilateral organs established for

such purposes and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations continue to be the only suitable way to settle disputes.

On the pretext of alleged threats to national security, some States promote and execute unilateral actions, some of which are related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. These unilateral measures pose a threat to international peace and security, undermine multilateralism and multilateral agreements, and erode confidence in the international system and in the very foundations of the United Nations.

In terms of scope and weight, unilateral measures and bilateral and regional agreements on disarmament and non-proliferation are no substitute for agreements reached through multilateral negotiations. Multilateralism must be the core principle of all negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

As a State Member of the United Nations and a State party to many treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation, Cuba reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism. The multilateral decision-making process conducted through the United Nations, in strict observance of the Charter and the principles of international law, is the only viable mechanism that can prevent the international system from becoming a mechanism for imposing and legitimizing unilateral measures that run counter to the multipolar, just and equitable world order we need.

Seeking negotiated solutions in a multilateral framework and acknowledging the need to arrive at collective agreements are the most effective way to safeguard international peace and security.

## El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[21 April 2015]

With respect to resolution 68/38 of 5 December 2013 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, I respectfully inform you that the Armed Forces of El Salvador are committed to cooperating, promoting and achieving disarmament and non-proliferation to maintain international peace and security.

The Republic of El Salvador does not have any nuclear weapons; however, it recognizes the right of States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes provided that they take the measures necessary to guarantee the safety of humankind.

## Georgia

[Original: English]
[26 May 2015]

Georgia accords special attention to the area of non-proliferation and disarmament. It affirms that nuclear non-proliferation, continued progress on nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are of vital importance and impose responsibilities on all States, and it stresses the fundamental duty of States, consistent with their respective national and international obligations, to maintain effective security of all weapons of mass destruction and related materials

and to prevent non-State actors from acquiring such materials and obtaining information or technology that would enable them to be used for malicious purposes.

Georgia recognizes the importance of multilateral instruments that address disarmament and non-proliferation and urges all States:

- To accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention
- To take urgent action to eliminate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- To support efforts to advance disarmament globally
- To maintain a moratorium on nuclear test explosions, pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and to sign and ratify the Treaty
- To work with all States towards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in order to prevent proliferation and advance disarmament

## Portugal

[Original: English]
[20 April 2015]

Portugal believes that multilateralism is the most effective way of achieving disarmament and non-proliferation, thereby maintaining international peace and security. Accordingly, Portugal is a party to the most relevant treaties and international and regional mechanisms aimed at preventing and eliminating the threats presented by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Portugal also cooperates with international organizations that work to that end.

Among the relevant treaties and mechanisms, we note the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and the Protocols thereto (including the amendment to Protocol II), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, including the amendment thereto. Portugal is a party to all those instruments.

Portugal also participates in the following export control regimes: the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Portugal has participated in various outreach activities — including formal and informal contacts and initiatives such as seminars, workshops and meetings — aimed at promoting the universalization of the principal treaties and other legal instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation, especially with the Portuguese-speaking countries.

In the wake of the multilateral effort made to conclude a treaty, Portugal was among the first 50 States to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty, the only legal instrument on disarmament adopted by the United Nations in the past decade.

Insofar as nuclear disarmament is concerned, the threat posed by countries that possess or wish to acquire nuclear weapons, especially in regions that are politically and socially unstable, is generally recognized.

In line with the policies of its European partners, Portugal supports the 5+5 Dialogue. With regard to nuclear disarmament, Portugal looks forward to the full implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, always bearing in mind the importance of confidence-building measures among nuclear and non-nuclear States.

Portugal hopes that the Conference on Disarmament will, as soon as possible, adopt a programme of work that includes the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty. To that end, Portugal highlights the importance of implementing the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and pacific uses of nuclear energy. It believes that the effective implementation of that action plan must include ending the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament. Portugal has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and engaged in outreach activities to further its universalization.

## Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[21 April 2015]

Qatar is firmly committed to promoting multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and considers it an important negotiating tool in achieving a range of goals. Qatar is a party to all the relevant conventions, namely, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and is an active participant in the pertinent conferences, seminars and meetings. It is also one of those members of the Non-Aligned Movement that are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Qatar believes that it is very important to make progress towards universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, with the aim of achieving comprehensive and complete disarmament under strict international supervision, thereby according international legitimacy to the relevant negotiations.

Qatar calls for the development of disarmament and non-proliferation strategies and hopes that the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty will be successful.

Qatar emphasizes the need to promote the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

## Serbia

[Original: English]
[17 April 2015]

The Republic of Serbia is a well-respected manufacturer and exporter of military equipment and conventional weapons. In keeping with the goals and priorities of its foreign policy, it ensures that its national system for the control of international transfers of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods conforms to the rules and standards of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as the obligations deriving from the conventions and treaties to which it is a party, the relevant Security Council resolutions and other international instruments.

The conditions for the export, import, transport and transit of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and the mediation and provision of services in that area are regulated by the Law on the export and import of arms and military equipment (*Official Journal of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 107/2014), Law on the export and import of goods of dual use (*Official Journal of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 95/2013) and relevant by-laws.

In November 2008, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted a conclusion on the adoption of principles from the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports — principles that had already been incorporated into a decision on the criteria for the issuance of licences for the export of arms, military equipment and goods of dual use.

The Republic of Serbia has complied consistently with its international obligations in the area of non-proliferation of both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and other international instruments.

Furthermore, following the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, and its ratification by the National Assembly on 29 October 2014, a comprehensive mandatory instrument now establishes common international standards that regulate the transfer of arms and military equipment.

By adopting a relevant conclusion in April 2008, the Government decided that Serbia would accede to international export control regimes. Serbia has become a full-fledged member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, while negotiations are under way for the country to accede to the Wassenaar Arrangement. The accession is expected to facilitate the exchange of information on proliferation risks and improve the system of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

## Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[29 May 2015]

The European Security Strategy identifies five major threats: the proliferation of weapons, especially those of mass destruction; terrorism; failed States; regional conflicts; and organized crime.

The National Defence Directive No. 1/2012 states that the current strategic scenario is characterized by the presence of a hybrid threat: conventional conflict combined with the asymmetric confrontation favoured by entities beyond the control of territorially sovereign States.

Cyberattacks, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, trafficking in persons, piracy, the expansion of armed and unarmed fanaticized movements and groups, and breakdowns in airspace and aerospace security are already, or are close to becoming, real threats. These emerging realities require multilateral responses, political commitment and consultation if international peace and stability are to be enhanced substantively.

In non-proliferation, a multidisciplinary strategy is needed that encompasses the areas of intergovernmental cooperation, the development of joint follow-up and monitoring instruments, exchanges of information, the establishment of new controls or the updating of existing ones. Their scope involves national defence systems, the strengthening of multilateral instruments and organizations, cooperation in development, and the eradication of illicit trafficking, as well as other aspects.

In order to ensure that a disarmament and non-proliferation system functions effectively, it must be truly multilateral in nature and based on full compliance by States with their obligations. This multilateral approach, in addition to increasing the system's effectiveness, gives it important legitimacy.

Spain is committed to the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament system; it has signed all the international agreements constituting the legal and normative framework of that system, and maintains an active, ambitious and consistent policy in support of its effectiveness and with the clear objective of achieving the universality of the major treaties in this area.

The election of Spain as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the main body of the Organization which, as entrusted under the Charter of the United Nations, has primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, reflects the international community's recognition of the important role Spain plays in the world and the country's commitment to multilateralism and to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The full text of Spain's submission can be found at www.un.org/disarmament/topics/multilateralism/.

## Sudan

[Original: Arabic]
[22 May 2015]

The Sudan stresses that it is important to support international treaties on non-proliferation and the prohibition of nuclear tests in order to ensure that they are universal and verifiable. In order to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all their aspects, and hence foster international peace and security, effectiveness is key. It is essential to ensure the cessation of all nuclear-weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons. The Sudan further emphasizes the need for the nuclear-weapon States to provide negative and positive security assurances. It endorses and encourages the bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives adopted by concerned countries to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and calls for continued international cooperation on peaceful use of nuclear energy, and for experts to hold seminars on the legal and technical aspects of the issue.

The Sudan calls for compliance with all instruments to prohibit, curb and dispose of nuclear weapons. It therefore calls on the United Nations and the Secretary-General to fulfil their roles by urging all parties to accede to those instruments in order to achieve universality and promote multilateralism.

The Sudan stresses the importance of prohibiting and preventing proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction, and consolidating international peace and security within the broader framework of multilateral disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation efforts. In that connection, the Sudan highlights the need to promote the universality of the relevant conventions as crucial to achieving their object and purpose. The Sudan welcomes the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. Both are multilateral and non-discriminatory, promote confidence among States Parties, contribute to non-proliferation, establish an international mechanism to verify compliance with their provisions, and promote international cooperation and assistance in the peaceful use of the relevant materials.

The Sudan calls on all parties to cooperate on measures to build confidence among the parties in order to bring about the conclusion of effective multilateral instruments related to disarmament and non-proliferation, including reliable mechanisms to verify compliance with their provisions. At the same time, the Sudan notes the importance of the bilateral and regional agreements already concluded between States and regional blocs.

## Ukraine

[Original: English]
[9 June 2015]

Ukraine has always been committed to the process of multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, including its full engagement within United Nations bodies dealing with disarmament, peace and security issues.

Ukraine has always been committed to its non-nuclear status and to the principles of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. That approach stands despite the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which led to the annexation of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea and is still under way in eastern Ukraine in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

Despite being subjected to military aggression on the part of a nuclear-weapon State, the Russian Federation, which denies its violations, in particular under the Budapest Memorandum and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Ukraine abides by its international obligations. It has reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to the principle of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the joint statement by Ukraine and the United States of America, issued as a result of The Hague Nuclear Security Summit, held in 2014. It has implemented the decisions of nuclear security summits in their entirety, including the decision requiring the removal of all residual stocks of highly enriched uranium.

Ukraine has participated actively in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/53 to make recommendations on possible aspects of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Ukrainian delegations have participated in the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament and the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.